

9562149

INDIVIDUAL PROPERTY/DISTRICT  
MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
INTERNAL NR-ELIGIBILITY REVIEW FORM

Property/District Name: D. Mitten House Survey Number: CARR-1431

Project: MD 140 (Westminster Bypass) Agency: FHWA/SHA

Site visit by MHT Staff: X no     yes Name                      Date                     

Eligibility recommended            Eligibility **not** recommended X

Criteria: X A     B X C     D Considerations:     A     B     C     D     E     F     G     None

Justification for decision: (Use continuation sheet if necessary and attach map)

Based on the information provided by SHA, the D. Mitten House, located at 312 Gorsuch Road does not appear to meet the National Register criteria for individual listing. The farmstead includes a frame and log 19th century farmhouse, 19th century bank barn, frame tenant house and frame shed on 1.22 acres in a highly commercial area just northeast of the core of Westminster. Due to the severe diminishment of the setting of the property, the cumulative alterations to farmhouse and the deterioration of the bank barn, the property no longer possesses sufficient integrity to convey its significance as a representative modest farmstead of Carroll County, under either Criteria A or C. In addition, the property is not known to have been associated with any significant person, and thus is unlikely to be eligible under Criterion B. Lastly, it is not located in any historic district.

Documentation on the property/district is presented in: Project File, Inventory Form

CARR 1431

Prepared by: Rita Suffness, SHA

Elizabeth Hannold

Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

December 19, 1995

Date

NR program concurrence: ✓ yes     no     not applicable

Charles R. Smith

Reviewer, NR program

12-19-95

Date

*gmg*

## MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA - HISTORIC CONTEXT

## I. Geographic Region:

☐ Eastern Shore (all Eastern Shore counties, and Cecil)  
☐ Western Shore (Anne Arundel, Calvert, Charles,  
 Prince George's and St. Mary's)  
☒ Piedmont (Baltimore City, Baltimore, Carroll,  
 Frederick, Harford, Howard, Montgomery)  
☐ Western Maryland (Allegany, Garrett and Washington)

## II. Chronological/Developmental Periods:

☐ Paleo-Indian 10000-7500 B.C.  
☐ Early Archaic 7500-6000 B.C.  
☐ Middle Archaic 6000-4000 B.C.  
☐ Late Archaic 4000-2000 B.C.  
☐ Early Woodland 2000-500 B.C.  
☐ Middle Woodland 500 B.C. - A.D. 900  
☐ Late Woodland/Archaic A.D. 900-1600  
☐ Contact and Settlement A.D. 1570-1750  
☐ Rural Agrarian Intensification A.D. 1680-1815  
☒ Agricultural-Industrial Transition A.D. 1815-1870  
☒ Industrial/Urban Dominance A.D. 1870-1930  
☐ Modern Period A.D. 1930-Present  
☐ Unknown Period ( ☐ prehistoric ☐ historic)

## III. Prehistoric Period Themes:

☐ Subsistence  
☐ Settlement  
☐ Political  
☐ Demographic  
☐ Religion  
☐ Technology  
☐ Environmental Adaption

## IV. Historic Period Themes:

☒ Agriculture  
☒ Architecture, Landscape Architecture,  
 and Community Planning  
☐ Economic (Commercial and Industrial)  
☐ Government/Law  
☐ Military  
☐ Religion  
☐ Social/Educational/Cultural  
☐ Transportation

## V. Resource Type:

Category: Buildings  
 Historic Environment: Rural  
 Historic Function(s) and Use(s): Domestic-single dwelling, Agricultural-outbuild  
ing, storage, animal  
 Known Design Source: na

D. Mitten House (CARR-1431)  
Westminster  
Carroll County

Historic Context:

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization: Piedmont  
(Harford, Baltimore, Carroll, Frederick, Howard, Montgomery  
Counties and Baltimore City)

Chronological/Development Period:  
Agricultural-Industrial Transition 1815-1870 A.D.  
Industrial/Urban Dominance 1870-1930 A.D.

Prehistoric/Historic Period Themes:  
Agriculture/Architecture

Resource Type:

Category: Buildings

Environment: Rural

Function & Use: Domestic/Single Dwelling/Residence  
Agriculture/Subsistence/Agricultural Outbuilding/Barn

Known Design Source: None

**Maryland Historical Trust  
State Historic Sites Inventory Form**

**MARYLAND INVENTORY OF  
HISTORIC PROPERTIES**

Survey No. CARR-1431

Magi No.

DOE   yes   no

**1. Name** (indicate preferred name)

historic D. Mitten House

and/or common

**2. Location**

street & number 312 Gorsuch Road

N/A not for publication

city, town Westminster

   vicinity of

congressional district

state Maryland

county Carroll

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<u>  </u> district	<u>  </u> public	<u>  </u> occupied	<u>  </u> agriculture
<u>  </u> building(s)	<u>  </u> private	<u>  </u> unoccupied	<u>  </u> commercial
<u>  </u> structure	<u>  </u> both	<u>  </u> work in progress	<u>  </u> educational
<u>  </u> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<u>  </u> entertainment
<u>  </u> object	<u>  </u> in process	<u>  </u> yes: restricted	<u>  </u> government
	<u>  </u> being considered	<u>  </u> yes: unrestricted	<u>  </u> industrial
	<u>  </u> not applicable	<u>  </u> no	<u>  </u> military
			<u>  </u> museum
			<u>  </u> park
			<u>  </u> private residence
			<u>  </u> religious
			<u>  </u> scientific
			<u>  </u> transportation
			<u>  </u> other:

**4. Owner of Property** (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Bern Wantz

street & number 312 Gorsuch Road

telephone no.:

city, town Westminster

state and zip code Maryland 21157

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. County Courthouse

liber 1304

street & number

folio 472

city, town Westminster

state Maryland

**6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys**

title N/A

date

   federal    state    county    local

pository for survey records

city, town

state

## 7. Description

Survey No. CARR-1431

### Condition

☐ excellent  
☐ good  
☒ fair

☐ deteriorated  
☐ ruins  
☐ unexposed

### Check one

☐ unaltered  
☒ altered

### Check one

☒ original site  
☐ moved      date of move \_\_\_\_\_

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

See Continuation Sheet 7.1

## 8. Significance

Survey No. ~~CARR 1431~~

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates ca. 1850 Builder/Architect Unknown

check: Applicable Criteria: ☒ A ☒ B ☒ C ☐ D  
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

See Continuation Sheet 8.1

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. CARR-1431

Research in County Historical Records.  
Interview with Bern Wantz

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 7.40 acreQuadrangle name WestminsterQuadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	Zone	Easting	Northing
C	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
E	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
G	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

B	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	Zone	Easting	Northing
D	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
F	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
H	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

Verbal boundary description and justification

Tax Map

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	N/A	code	county	code
state		code	county	code

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Rita Suffness, Leader, Cultural Resources Grouporganization MD SHAdate 2/15/95street & number 707 N. Calvert Streettelephone 410-333-1183city or town Baltimorestate MD 21202

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
Shaw House  
21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 269-2438

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
DHCP/DHCD  
100 COMMUNITY PLACE  
CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-2021  
514-7600

CARR-1431  
D. Mitten House

Description  
Continuation Sheet 7.1

The D. Mitten House is located northeast of the core of the town of Westminster, in an area which was largely rural and agricultural until the population and development explosion of the last few decades enveloped the site in commercial strip development. Gorsuch Road, on which it is located, is the main thorofare between Westminster and the area known as Tannery. The property is sited on the short stretch of Gorsuch Road located inside of MD 140, built about twenty years ago to bypass Westminster. The part of Gorsuch Road on which the Mitten House is located parallels and is slightly uphill from MD 140, and the numerous used car lots and commercial strip development constitute the viewshed of the property.

The property is composed of a nineteenth century dwelling and bankbarn, plus two fairly recently constructed buildings--the garage and a secondary dwelling, neither of which contributes to the significance of the site. The property, composed of 7.40 acres, slopes from the back, on southwest portion of the lot, down to Gorsuch Road, at the edge of which the house is located. This principal dwelling, a modest wood structure, appears to have been sited in an area which had been levelled somewhat, as a short stretch of retaining wall holds back the slope to the rear. The ell-shaped structure began as a simple, probably two story log dwelling which had its entrance elevation oriented to the southeast, parallel to Gorsuch Road. This section has been converted to the kitchen, located in the end of the ell. Extensive modification to the interior, including dropped ceiling (resulting in a constricted six foot/five inch height) and wooden paneling, has completely obscured the construction features. There is a replacement window on the end wall, immediately abutting a recently constructed outside stair accessing an entrance in the second level of the gable end.

This original section probably dates to the early to mid nineteenth century, and was supplemented some time later by an extension, on a same level, of a frame, two-story, one-room section to the north, expanding the structure to approximately twice its original size. With the addition of a crosswing to the north of this rectangular two-part section, probably late in the nineteenth century, the building assumed its present proportions and size. As such, it is three bays wide on the principal, or northeast, elevation which fronts Gorsuch Road, and one room deep. The ell is five bays deep along the southeast elevation of the rear wing.

The principal part of the structure (the formal section which faces Gorsuch Road) has a gable roof paralleling the entrance facade. The bay widths are irregular, and the doorway is offset to the north, resulting in misalignment of the fenestration. The entrance is sheltered by a shed-roofed, full-width open porch carried on Doric-inspired square pillars. The windows on the first and second levels of the gable ends of this forward section are likewise offset to the southwest, with a four light square window centered directly under the peaks. Most of the fenestration is six-over-six, with the exception of the rectangular new window in the end wall of the kitchen wing. The structure is entirely sheathed in vinyl siding.

Continuation Sheet 7.1 cont.

The interior of the principal (and newest) part of the structure, on a lower level and with higher ceilings than the two back rooms, is characterized by great simplicity, being largely devoid of molded window and door enframements, etc. The principal entrance accesses the parlor, behind which is the dining room and kitchen, with an enclosed porch on two levels along the entire length of the southeast elevation of the ell. The surround of the fireplace, centered on the northwest wall of the parlor, is extremely plain. There are no working fireplaces in the house. A winder stair in the north corner of the parlor has been removed, and the winder stair in the north corner of the dining room was also removed, and one accessing the southwest wall of the parlor was built in its place.

A rectangular, vinyl sided, gable roofed cottage is located off the south corner of the ell slightly uphill from the principal residence. This is a 1940's wash house on a concrete block foundation, which was doubled in size a couple of decades ago and converted to use as a dwelling. One enters the structure through a door offset to the northwest in the gable end.

To the north of the principal residence, immediately adjacent to Gorsuch Road, is a large bankbarn, sheathed with vertical board and built into a hill on the southwest side, exposing the lower level of the forebay on the opposite side immediately adjacent to Gorsuch Road. This barn, in very poor condition, was constructed on a stone foundation on the rear and sides, but the forebay rests on a brick foundation. Most of the louvers on the many small openings are missing or in a state of decay. A small shed-roofed extension was constructed with concrete block walls on the southeast end of the barn and is currently utilized as a garage. A frame equipment shed/garage is located uphill and behind the barn.

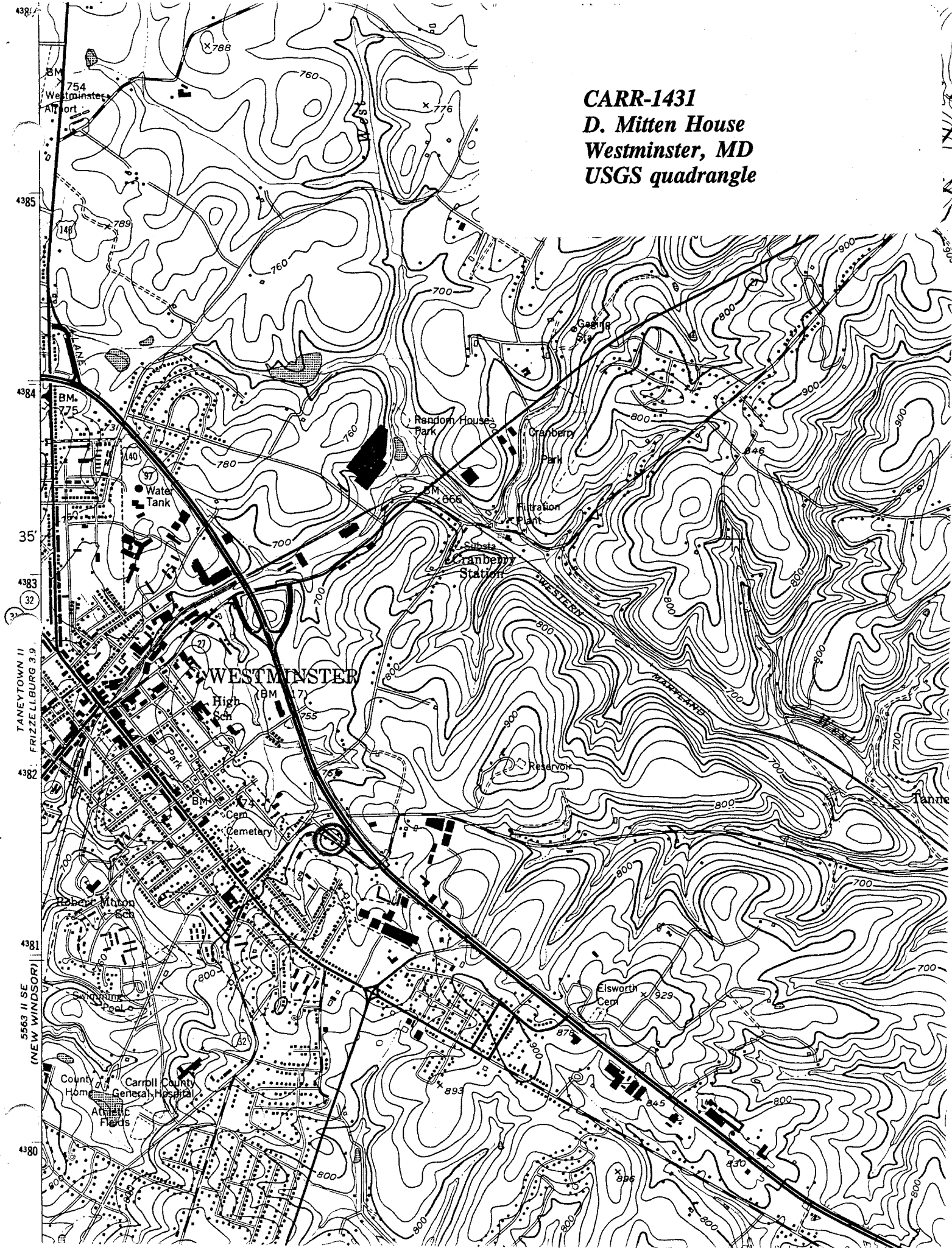
1431  
CARR-1437  
D. Mitten House

Statement of Significance  
Continuation Sheet 8.1

The D. Mitten property, only minimally significant in its present form, is composed of a log and frame, ell-shaped principal dwelling, a large bankbarn and two auxiliary structures (secondary dwelling and equipment shed/garage). At the time it was constructed in the nineteenth century the property was just outside of the limits of Westminster in a largely rural area. When the grandfather of the present owner, Bern Wantz, purchased the property from Jeremiah Starner in the 1914, it was part of Albaugh's Mill which was located on the opposite side of Gorsuch Road. John William Routzahn, the owner, worked as a miller there. The mill and part of the current dwelling were destroyed and/or damaged in a 1916 fire.

With the explosion of construction activity in the area in the last few decades, along with the building of MD 140 just on the other side of Gorsuch Road from the property, the rural setting has been obliterated, and the immediate environs of the house is composed of strip malls, used car lots, etc. In addition, the integrity of the property has been severely compromised by substantial changes to the dwelling in the form of vinyl sheathing, replacement of a window, removal of a stone fireplace and closing off of other fireplaces and removal of staircases. The sole outbuilding to date to the time of the house, the bankbarn, is in very poor condition, with its integrity further eroded by an open shed-roofed concrete block addition on the southeast end wall.

**CARR-1431**  
**D. Mitten House**  
**Westminster, MD**  
**USGS quadrangle**



CARR-1431  
D. Mitten House  
Carroll County, MD

Identification of Photographs

- |     |                         |                        |
|-----|-------------------------|------------------------|
| 1.  | Principal Dwelling,     | NE Elevator            |
| 2.  | " "                     | East Corner            |
| 3.  | " "                     | SE Elevation           |
| 4.  | " "                     | South Corner           |
| 5.  | " "                     | SE Elevation           |
| 6.  | " "                     | SW Elevation           |
| 7.  | " "                     | West Corner            |
| 8.  | " "                     | North Corner           |
| 9.  | " "                     | NE Elevation           |
| 10. | Secondary Dwelling (NC) | NE Elevation           |
| 11. | Garage (NC)             | SE Elevation           |
| 12. | Bankbarn                | South Corner           |
| 13. | "                       | SE Elevation           |
| 14. | "                       | Addition, South Corner |
| 15. | "                       | Addition, SE Elevation |
| 16. | "                       | NE Elevation           |
| 17. |                         | East Corner            |



CARR-1431

D. Matter House and Barn

Carroll County, MD

R. Suffness 2/95

Mid State Hwy Administration  
Baltimore Md.

NE (Principal) Facade

1/17



CARR-1431

D Mitten House and Barn

Carroll County, MD

Ruta Suffress 2/95

Md. State Highway Administration

E corner

2/97



CARR-1431

D. Mitten House and Barn

Carroll County, MD

Rita Luffness 2195

MD State Highway Administration

$\frac{5}{317}$  Elevation



CARD-1431

D. Mitten House and Barn

Cornwall County, MD

Rte suppress 495

MD State Highway Administration:

South Corner

4/17



CARR-1431

2 Hutter House and Barn

Carroll County, MD

R. S. Huff. 2/95

MD. State. Highway Administration

S.E. Elevation Looking N.E.

5117



CARR-1481

D. Mitten House and Barn

Carroll County, MD

R. Suffern 2/95

MD. State Hwy, near Adams Station

SW Elevation and S Corner

6/17



CARR-1431

D. A. Allen House and Barn

Carroll County, MD

R. S. Suggs 2/95

MD. State Highway Administration

W. Corner

7/17



CARR-1431

D. Mitten House and Barn

Carroll County MD

R. Sufferns 4/95

Md State Highway Administration

N. Corner

8/17



CARR-1431

D-Mutter House and Barn

Carroll County, MD

R. Suffern 2/95

MD State Highway Administration

NE elevated

1/17



QAR12-143)

D. Mitter House and Farm

New, Non-Contributing Dwelling  
~ Property

Carroll County, MD

12, 8uff. ... 2/15/5

MD State Highway Ad. ...

Not a ...

10/17



CARR 7431

D. Mott, Harris and Bell -

Carrick County, MD

R. Safford 2/95

MD State Highway Administration

Garage, S.E. Corner -

11/17



Cave - 1431

D. Mitten House and Barn -

Carroll County, MD

R. Suffern 495

MD State Highway, Administration

Bank Barn

South Corner -

12/17



Camp - 1437

D. Mutt - Howard P. -

Carroll County, MD

R. Saffress 2/95

MD, State Highway Administration

S.E. Elevation

13117



CARR-143,

D. Mitten Farm and Co.

Carroll County, MD

2.5000 2/45

MD State Nat. Monument is

Battle ground, Shad on SE. elevation

1417



(ARR-143)

D. Mitten House and Barn

Carroll County, MD

R. Saffers 2/95

MD State Hwy, Administration

Baltimore and Additions

S.E. Elevation

12/17



CARR-1431

D. Mottet House and Gar.

Carroll County, MD

Rita Cutler 2/45

MD State Highway Administration

Bank home

N.E. Elevation

16/17



CA 22-1231

Q. Mitten House and Farm

Carroll County, MD

D. Sutterlin 2/15

MD State Highway Administration

Bankers

E. Corner

17117